

# ParentInfo

News for a child's  
most important educator

March 30, 2016



## Links:

- Students encouraged to eat breakfast at school
- Kentucky School for the Blind, West Kentucky Cooperative host Second Annual Visionary Day



**Commissioner's  
Column: Our  
Children, Our  
Commonwealth**



**Get involved. Apply  
now for the Institute for  
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**Submit recipes  
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Healthy  
Lunchtime  
Challenge**



*All photos by KDE unless otherwise noted*

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- KSU offers STEM-based summer residential programs
- Scholarship helps high school students take dual credit classes
- 'Surviving College' booklets can help freshmen, adults
- Poster and essay contest underscores importance of agriculture



## Twitter chat

Parents: Want to chat with educators?  
A parent/teacher Twitter chat takes  
place at 9 p.m. every Wednesday.  
To participate or just follow the  
conversation, use the hashtag #PTchat.

# Commissioner Stephen Pruitt: Our Children, Our Commonwealth

I have now been in my position for six months. I cannot believe how quickly time flies when you are having fun. This has been the greatest six months of my professional life. I am looking forward to the future.

Recently, we held our first Town Hall Meeting in Shelbyville. It was a great start. We had almost 300 people come to the meeting to discuss what we value in Kentucky schools. I was very impressed and excited with the discussion and passion of our shareholders. Guess what we heard? Of course there were a lot of different ideas. But, I heard clearly two things, our new accountability system is about Our Children, Our Commonwealth.

As we move forward in education, I think we need to focus and take ownership for our students' education. We will establish equity, achievement and integrity as the pillars of our work. But we should remember why these matter. Yes, accountability has as its measure, schools and districts. But what really matters are the students in those schools. Education is about our students. That sounds like such an obvious statement, but oddly enough it gets lost sometimes – especially when we discuss accountability. We have accountability to ensure a quality education for students, but it can become about the adults.

## Our Children

No one will debate that our schools and education should be about students. All educators went into education to help shape future generations. We have to do more than acknowledge this; we must own it. These are the children of the Commonwealth, our children. In saying they are our children, we move past acknowledgement and into accepting responsibility for our children's education. It's a must. They are not someone else's children, but ours. When we embrace this, it gives us a new sense of urgency. This has been what has driven Kentucky's education improvements for 25 years. I am calling on us to do this once again.

## Our Commonwealth

Improving education must be done collaboratively. We need all shareholders working together to improve the lives of our students. We need to rally around the idea that we possess the ability to affect the future of our state. The preparation of OUR children will impact the future of OUR Commonwealth.

Interesting word, Commonwealth. To me, it means working together for the common good. Focusing on our children is the single most important thing we can do for them, for our state, for the common good.

Together, the shareholders of education in the Commonwealth will move us forward and improve the lives of our citizens.

There are eight remaining meetings across the state. I hope to see you at one. Our children need your voice and your values.

As always, I continue to be proud to serve Our Children, Our Commonwealth.



EDUCATION TOWN HALL MEETINGS: How does Kentucky define school success? All meetings are 6:30 – 8 p.m. local time.		
Date	City	Location
Thursday, March 31	Hazard	Kentucky Valley Educational Cooperative 412 Roy Campbell Drive Hazard, KY
Thursday, April 7	Lexington	Kentucky High School Athletic Association 2280 Executive Drive Lexington, KY
Monday, April 11	Corbin	Southeast/Southcentral Educational Cooperative – Corbin Center 222 Corbin Center Drive Corbin, KY
Monday, April 18	Ashland	Kentucky Educational Development Cooperation – Ashland Conference Center 904 Rose Road Ashland, KY
Thursday, April 21	Louisville	Seneca High School Magnet Career Academy – Stickler Theatre 3510 Goldsmith Lane Louisville, KY
Monday, April 25	Northern Kentucky	Northern Kentucky University James C. and Rachel M. Votruba Student Union – Ballroom Kenton Drive Highland Heights, KY
Wednesday, April 27	Bowling Green	GRREC Offices and Training Center 230 Technology Way Bowling Green, KY
Thursday, April 28	Murray	Murray Middle School Auditorium 801 Main Street Murray, KY



# Get involved. Apply now for the Institute for Parent Leadership

The Governor's Commonwealth Institute for Parent Leadership (GCIPL) is a program of the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence that helps parents and other caring adults learn more about how to support their children in school.

Adults also learn how to engage others to improve the academic outcomes of all students in their child's school. Participants commit to attend five days of training and will learn about Kentucky's public education and accountability system, how to analyze student and school achievement data, regional resources and supports, and communication and leadership skills needed to engage others in school improvement projects.

GCIPL is free, including meals and materials. The leadership program is available to parents, caregivers and mentors of public school students.

The five institute locations, and the counties or schools included, are:

- Northern Kentucky – Boone, Bracken, Campbell, Grant, Kenton, Gallatin and Pendleton counties
- Corbin, hosted by Partners for Education at Berea College – Cumberland County Middle School, Clay County schools, Jackson County schools, Knox Central High School, South and North Laurel High Schools, Lynn Camp schools, Middlesboro Middle School, Madison Central, Owsley County Schools and Perry County schools
- Louisville – All Jefferson County public schools, with preference given to KDE designated Priority schools
- Eastern Kentucky in partnership with Morehead State University – Bath, Bell, Boyd, Breathitt, Carter, Clay, Elliott, Estill, Fleming, Floyd, Greenup, Harlan, Johnson, Knott, Knox, Lawrence, Lee, Leslie, Letcher, Lewis, Magoffin, Martin, Menifee, Montgomery, Morgan, Owsley, Perry, Pike, Powell, Rowan and Wolfe counties
- Owensboro – Daviess County, Henderson County and Owensboro Independent public schools

To apply, visit [www.gcipl.org](http://www.gcipl.org) and click on "GCIPL Application" on left of page. Application deadline is April 15.



*Provided by GCIPL*

## Submit recipes for first lady's Healthy Lunchtime Challenge

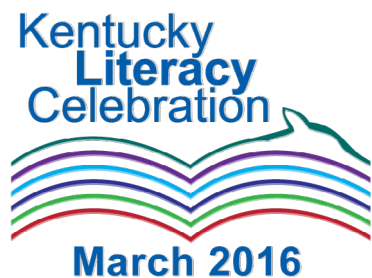
First lady Michelle Obama is challenging junior chefs to put their talents to good use and whip up delicious lunchtime recipes for the [Healthy Lunchtime Challenge and Kids' State Dinner](#). Children ages 8-12 are invited, with the help of an adult, to create and submit an original lunch recipe that is healthy, affordable and tasty.

One winner from each state and a parent or guardian will be flown to Washington to attend a special kids' state dinner at the White House, where a selection of winning recipes will be served.

The deadline is April 4. Click [here](#) to submit a recipe.



# Join in the Kentucky Literacy Celebration



March 2016 has been designated as Kentucky Literacy Celebration, with a month-long recognition of the importance of literacy.

The Collaborative Center for Literacy Development is encouraging organizations to promote literacy-related activities. All Kentucky residents and organizations – such as schools, churches, businesses and nonprofits – are being encouraged to implement literacy activities in their communities throughout the Commonwealth. Families are urged to intentionally engage in literacy activities in their homes and volunteers are encouraged to share a book with a child or assist in a school-related project.

Kentucky Literacy Celebration week began in 2011 as an effort to showcase Kentucky and literacy. Read more about [Kentucky Literacy Celebration here](#).

## KSU offers STEM-based summer residential programs

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The Kentucky State University College of Agriculture, Food Science and Sustainable Systems will host STEM-based 4-H and youth development summer programs for middle and high school students. There are residential programs geared toward high school students and one for middle school students, all offering hands-on experiences and opportunities to advance their minds and extend their understanding of agriculture and other sciences.

The programs are:

- **Summer Apprenticeship Program, June 5-25**

The mission of this program for students entering grades 11-12 is to introduce them to STEM fields, including agricultural-, environmental- and geoscience-related systems through hands-on experiential learning, research and college-prep projects.

The registration deadline is March 31.

- **Pathways and Access to Careers in Environmental Sciences, June 12-18**

This new program for students entering grades 6-8 uses a problem-based learning curriculum, “Project Learning Tree: Green School Investigations,” to foster critical and creative thinking in group and individual projects. Instruction will incorporate fun along with environmental science, math and technology so that activities are educational and entertaining.

The registration deadline is April 1.

- **Summer Transportation Institute, July 10-30**

The program for students entering grades 9-10 allows them to explore today’s top transportation industries. The institute is designed to increase awareness of transportation (land, water, air) career opportunities at the secondary education level in order to encourage students to choose a career in this field.

The registration deadline is April 1.

Click [here](#) for more information on the programs.



## Scholarship helps high school students take dual credit classes

Kentucky high school juniors and seniors have until May 15 to apply for a scholarship to help pay for dual credit classes taken at a Kentucky college or university.

The Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority’s (KHEAA) Mary Jo Young Scholarship provides assistance with tuition and textbook expenses for up to two classes each semester. Scholarships can only be used in the fall and spring semesters.

To be considered, students must be in grades 11 or 12 during the 2016-17 school year and must have at least an 18 ACT composite or earn at least a 2.5 GPA during the 2015-16 school year. Priority is given to students eligible for free and reduced-priced meals.

Students must apply through their KHEAA account. Click [here](#) for more information.



## ‘Surviving College’ booklets can help freshmen, adults

“Surviving College,” a guide that helps college freshmen succeed during their first year on campus, is available free from the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA).

The 36-page booklet includes sections about:

- majors and class schedules.
- staying healthy and safe on campus.
- learning styles and study tips.
- campus life.
- financial basics.

KHEAA also provides “Surviving College for Adults,” geared toward nontraditional students.

To order a free copy, email [publications@kheaa.com](mailto:publications@kheaa.com). Please include your mailing address. Online versions of both are available on [www.kheaa.com](http://www.kheaa.com).

KHEAA is the state agency that administers the Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship, need-based grants and other programs to help students pay their higher education expenses.

To learn how to plan and prepare for higher education, go to [www.gotocollege.ky.gov](http://www.gotocollege.ky.gov). For more information about Kentucky scholarships and grants, visit [www.kheaa.com](http://www.kheaa.com).



## Poster and essay contest underscores importance of agriculture



*This poster by Warren County 8th-grader Richard Pike was one of the 2015 winners.*

The Kentucky Department of Agriculture and Kentucky Agriculture and Environment in the Classroom are conducting a poster and essay contest for students in grades K-12. Posters, essays and digital images should show agriculture’s importance to Kentucky’s way of life and its future, and should be based on the contest’s theme: “Kentucky Agriculture: Our Farms, Our Food, Our Future.”

Statewide poster and essay winners will be selected from each grade, along with an overall digital winner. Winners will receive cash prizes July 15 at Whitaker Bank Ballpark in Lexington during the Kentucky Proud-Kentucky Agriculture and Environment in the Classroom Night at the Lexington Legends baseball game. Winning entries will be displayed at the Kentucky State Fair.

Entries must be postmarked by May 20. Click [here](#) for more information.